

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Application

Claims 2-13 and 26-39 are currently pending, with claims 1, 14-25 and 40 being canceled without prejudice, claims 12, 13, 26, 27, 38 and 39 being withdrawn, and claims 2-11 being amended. As all of the amendments are fully supported by the application as filed, no new matter has been introduced into the application.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office Action opens by withdrawing the prior rejections and entering new grounds of rejection, and concludes by indicating that claims 5, 6, 8-11, 31, 32 and 34-37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Discussion

Applicants have amended the claims so that those currently pending, *i.e.*, claims 2-13 and 26-39, all describe subject matter that has been deemed allowable. Applicants thus submit that the rejections and objections have been overcome.

Conclusion

As Applicants believe the application is in proper condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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